

GOLD Policing Strategy



“E” Division Anti-Mandate Protests Protected “A”

Chief Superintendent JOHN BREWER - Gold Commander

Background Summary:

The Government of Canada recently announced a federal mandate for truckers crossing the border to be vaccinated by 15 January 2022. This led to the so-called Freedom Convoy 2022 protest being organised largely through social media. Various convoys started across Canada on 22 January with the goal of arriving in Ottawa over the weekend of 28 and 29 January.

A convoy of Canadian truck drivers and their supporters traveled from various cities to Ottawa to protest the federal vaccine mandates for truck drivers, as well as Covid 19 mandated restrictions in general, starting on January 28/29 and continued uninterrupted to present.

While the organisers have declared that this is an act of peaceful protest, some ideologically motivated fringe elements have seized upon these rallies to advocate for their own ideological objectives. Extremists and other individuals supporting COVID-19 conspiracy theories and violent anti-authority/anti-government views have expressed intent to participate in these convoy protests.

Here have been a number of Anti-Mandate Protests in British Columbia in support of the Ottawa protesters. These have expanded to BC centric Anti-Mandate Protests throughout the province

but focused on Victoria, Vancouver, Kelowna, Osoyoos and Surrey border crossings and Ft. St. John. It is expected that these protests will continue into the near future, based on messaging from organisers and participants online.

Overall Aim: The Royal Canadian Mounted Police – as the Provincial Police of British Columbia and the Police of Jurisdiction for the areas effected by Anti-Mandate Protests, will deliver its core policing responsibilities and provide enhanced policing service for areas subject to any criminality related to Anti-Mandate Protests, and/or associated actions, in a manner which reflects its Mission, Vision, Values. Its common-law and statutory policing responsibilities are to:

- Preserve the peace, uphold and enforce the law;
- Protect life, and property; and prevent crime;
- Ensure freedom of movement on roadways, railways and maritime routes.

Strategic Objectives:

The British Columbia Royal Canadian Mounted Police (BCRCMP), Community Response Group (CIRG) will work in partnership with all the affected Police Jurisdictions, other government agencies and non-governmental groups to meet the following objectives when policing the areas affected by Anti-Mandate Protests as designated by The Commanding Officer “E” Division:

1. Conduct any action in such a way to facilitate Lawful, Peaceful and Safe protest whenever possible while ensuring the situation will be returned to a state of normalcy as quickly as possible following an event. Restore order and the public peace expeditiously, but with restraint if the situation deteriorates to disorder using the **Measured Approach**:

The Measured Approach is the deliberate employment of proactive engagement, communication, mitigation and facilitation measures by police to maintain the peace, or to facilitate resolution of public disorder and restoration of the peace while preserving all options and employing those tactical responses deemed necessary to meet the situation while seeking to respect the lawful exercise of personal rights and freedoms.

Rationale: This is a core policing responsibility reflecting our duty to preserve the peace by using appropriate means and if necessary force that is justified and reasonable under the Law. The restoration of order reassures our communities that we have the capacity to meet their concern for safety.

2. Facilitate the right to conduct, Lawful, Peaceful and Safe protest while protecting lives and reducing the potential for injuries to the general public and police officers, protect property and minimize opportunities for persons to commit criminal acts against persons and property at all times, but particularly during any protest actions.

Rationale: This is a core police responsibility that is in keeping with the Law and it ensures that we maintain public confidence. It is also our responsibility to ensure the effective administration of justice.

3. Prevent crime and expediently investigate criminal activity that impedes the ability of any person to securely and safely go about their lawful business.

Rationale: This is a core policing responsibility and we aim to meet this objective through a sound investigative and evidence gathering process, proportionate to the nature and circumstances of the criminal activity. Arrests will be made using our discretion when safe to do so and as authorized by law.

4. Work together with the Police of Jurisdiction, other government agencies and non-government agencies to ensure a coordinated response to any threats, which materializes in and around the areas affected by Anti-Mandate protests; this includes threats to the public, police, other emergency services and property.

Rationale: This is a core policing responsibility. Our communities expect a coordinated and effective response to threats which may be planned or not immediately realized.

Policing Style:

The B.C. RCMP will provide a friendly but firm collaborative style of policing consistent with the community policing philosophy and community engagement.

All on-duty police officers will wear attire appropriate for their duties according to their respective chain of command:

- Those attending to, or responding to maintenance of public order during a protest will wear Service Order No. 1, or standard working uniform consistent with their jurisdiction or job function. All police officers will have on their person; all use of force options, visible nametags, they will also have available their HBA and high-visibility vests to enhance officer presence and public reassurance as and when operationally required.
- Those attending as members of Specialized Teams will dress in the designated uniforms of these teams; they will carry their full range of use of force options and will be identifiable as police officers.

- Those in plainclothes functions will dress in business casual; they will carry their full range of use of force options discreetly, but have the capability of being identifiable as police officers

On-duty police officers assigned to police services will take a measured approach to policing public order issues and a robust and zero-tolerance approach to any illegality, threats, violence or disorder directed towards the public or police.

Outcomes:

- Preferred: No criminal acts, no injuries to any person, no further damage to property. Overall safety to anyone participating in, or transiting through, the areas effected by Anti-Mandate Protests. Members of the public can enjoy lawful use of public and private property. Disruption to traffic is minimal given safety concerns due to protest activities. This will occur through efficient and fiscally prudent use of police resources.
- Acceptable: Minor disruptions to business and some public disobedience, if deemed necessary, to facilitate a peaceful outcome to the protest. Any injuries will be due to personal health issues or unavoidable accidents. Limited disruption of traffic to facilitate a peaceful conclusion to a protest. Overall safety to all parties involved in any protest actions.
- Unacceptable: **Any violence against the public, police or other government agency employees. Significant damage to property due to criminal activity. Long-term occupation of any roadways, railways, border crossing or other facilities and buildings.**

Command Structure:

This event will require one Gold Commander working from RCMP HQ in charge of the Police support to all RCMP jurisdictions affected by Anti-Mandate Protests. The Gold Commander will provide a dedicated strategic overview of policing preparations relative to the areas affected by protests. This will enhance, not replace, existing structures. Gold Command will provide continuous and timely updates to BC RCMP SMT and the province during any protests. Gold Command is responsible to approve all external communications related to Anti-Mandate Protests. The Gold Commander will also be prepared to initiate the provincial response to any policing contingencies occurring due to Anti-Mandate Protests and other related events.

A Silver Commander will prepare and be in charge of executing the Operational Plan. Silver Command will be located at RCMP HQ. Geographic Bronze Commanders from RCMP Districts in "E" Division, Functional Bronze Commanders from CIP, DLT, CIRG INTEL, DDO, the Federal OCC. Specialized RCMP Teams and any attached policing resources deployed from

outside “E” Division will immediately support the Silver Commander. Silver Command will ensure continuous and timely updates to Gold Command. The Silver Commander will add Bronze elements as required to respond to emerging threats and events during the duration of the Anti-Mandate Protests.

The Bronze Commanders will be responsible for policing this event, in consultation with or at the direction of the Silver Commander. Geographic Bronze and Sub-Bronze Commanders will provide continuous and timely updates on any protests throughout.

Command Protocols:

Strategic oversight of Anti-Mandate Protests Policing Plan rests with the Gold Commander. The Gold Commander will:

- Provide strategic oversight from HQ of the Plan.
- Adjust strategy and plans as situations evolve.
- Review and approve the Silver Plan which will include mutual aid support.
- Liaise with the Silver Commander throughout the duration of the event.
- Depending on the gravity of the situation, request mutual aid support other police jurisdictions not affected by the event.
- Keep the Division Executive briefed on strategic issues and concerns.
- Ensure resiliency of the Command Team.

Operational command and control rests with Silver Commander working from RCMP HQ. The Silver Commander will:

- Provide operational oversight of police response through the Bronze Commanders.
- Prepare the Operational Plan for the Anti-Mandate Protests and once approved, ensure its effective execution through Bronze and Sub-Bronze tactical plans.
- Maintain close contact with Bronze Commanders to ensure appropriate communication, coordination of mutual support and execution of tactical plans.
- Liaise with Bronze Commanders and ensure resiliency of Bronze Command Teams.
- Provide continuous and timely information to Gold Command.
- Coordinate and host command conferences and info sessions.

Tactical Command and control rests with the assigned Bronze Commanders and Sub-Bronze Commanders for each area of responsibility. Bronze and Sub-Bronze Commanders will:

- Execute their Tactical Plans at their areas of responsibility.
- Maintain close contact with other Bronze Commanders and Sub-Bronze Commanders to ensure coordination of resources and provide mutual support as per their Tactical Plans.
- Liaise with the Silver Commander to ensure consistency in approach, direction and execution of Operational Plan.
- In consultation with Silver Command, designate Sub-Bronze Unit and PoJ commands.
- Provide continuous and timely information to Silver Command.

Tactical Parameters:

I have considered the following tactical parameters for this operation if the event runs normally, or if threats to public safety are increased, or if disorder and serious disorder occurs all the way up to complete unrest. All tactical parameters will be applied with a measured approach taking into account the operational tempo on the ground.

- Command level: Gold is strategic, Silver is operational and Bronze/Sub-Bronze are tactical – The intention is to provide effective oversight, command and control of policing operations in areas affected by Anti-Mandate Protests. This will enhance, not replace, existing structures.
- Media Relations Officer – Media relations for BC RCMP Anti-Mandate Protests will be primarily the responsibility of “E” Division Strategic Communications. “E” Division Strategic Communications will be available to provide advice and media lines should the need arise.
- Mutual Aid and increased resources to areas affected by Anti-Mandate Protests: if required, the respective geographic Bronze Commanders will coordinate to obtain assistance from adjoining police jurisdictions and/or CIP via the Silver Commander. If more assistance is required, the Silver Commander will consult with the Gold Commander for division, or national support based on changes in the threat level and the situation on the ground, supported by intelligence.
- Use of force to address threats to public and police safety – Police officers will exercise authority to act in keeping with the provisions of section 25 of the Criminal Code of Canada, and as permitted under common law (Regina v. WATERFIELD, 1963 – English Court of Appeal, and FIGUEIRAS v. Toronto Police Services Board, 2015 ONCA 208 – Ontario Court of Appeal).
- Enhanced public order crowd management tactics – Contact the Gold Commander for approval to employ these tactics.
- Intelligence monitoring – The CIRG INTEL Unit (CIRG and RTIC resources) will be engaged in ongoing intelligence gathering to ensure the best available information is used for planning and decision making.

CIRG GSB Anti-Mandate Protest Commanders:

Gold Commander: C/Supt. John BREWER

Silver Commander: Supt. Jim Elliott

Silver Staff Officer: Sgt. Jonn UZELAC

Bronze INTEL Commander: Sgt. Mark LUNDIE

Bronze Operations Support: Gus PAPAGIANNIS

CIP Bronze Commander: S/Sgt. Glen FISHBOOK

DLT Bronze Commander: S/Sgt. Aaron SPROULE

IMIT Bronze Commander: Sgt. Kerry WILLIAMS

DDO / FED OCC Bronze Commander: Insp. Mike COYLE

Geographic Bronze and Sub-Bronze Commanders:

SED:

Bronze SED: Insp. Perry SMITH

Sub-Bronze Kelowna:

Sub-Bronze: Kamloops:

Sub-Bronze: South Okanagan

ID:

Bronze ID: Supt. Mac RICHARDS

Sub-Bronze Nanaimo

Sub-Bronze West Shore

Sub-Bronze Duncan-North Cowichan

Sub-Bronze Campbell River

LMD:

LMD Bronze: Insp. Mike BHATTI

Sub-Bronze Surrey

Sub-Bronze Burnaby

ND:

ND Bronze: Insp. Ken FLOYD

BCHP:

BCHP Bronze Command: Supt. Dale CARR

Communication Plan:

Weekly coordination call with all commands:

Thursdays 1400: Number: s.37

Daily coordination calls:

As designated by Silver Command

Hourly written updates in real time to all levels of command during protests:

Email Unfolding BN Format

External Communications:

BC RCMP Strat Comms through Gold Command

Gold Strategy prepared on 2022-01-07 after consultation with CIRG Silver Command on 2022-07-07.

(John BREWER) C/Supt.

“E” Division

CIRG Gold Commander